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B2  
cont  
W<sub>0</sub> is a nominal value vector of weights assigned to each microphone in the array.

REMARKS:

It is understood from my conversation with the Examiner's group clerk that examination has not yet commenced on this application and is unlikely to commence at least for another couple of months or so. Consequently, it is believed that the attached Preliminary Amendment should be acceptable.

The application now contains a total of 49 claims. Claims fees have already been paid for 40 claims. Accordingly our check of today's date includes an additional amount of \$162.00 in respect of the 9 additional claims. Fees have already been submitted to cover the 5 independent claims. If any additional fees are required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 13-1717.

An important novel aspect of the invention as now defined by the amended claims is that the microphone array is provided with a diffracting structure, the sound field around the diffracting structure is determined, and then the steerable beam is formed by taking into account the actual sound field as determined to exist around the diffracting structure. The wording of the amended claims brings out this novel aspect in more detail.

In a preferred aspect, the expected gain in accordance with the formula shown, for example, in Figure 8 in Claim 83, is optimized.

Claim 1 refers to a process of programmed process signals from the microphones. The original specification, for example, at page 8, line 6, stated that the separate signals from the separate microphones are "weighted and summed" to provide an output signal. The only way that such signals can be "weighted and summed" is by "processing" them and by definition processing occurs in a "processor". The words "with a processor" have been added at line 6, page 8 to provide a formal antecedent for the use of the term processor in the

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claims. It is believed that this addition does not constitute new subject matter since, as noted, it is inherent that processed signals be processed with a processor.

Respectfully submitted,

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**In the Specification:**

The paragraph beginning at line 5, page 8, has been amended as follows:

- - In a microphone array the separate signals from the separate microphones are weighted and summed with a processor to provide an output signal. This process is represented by the equation: - -